SF-186 FWAB Procedures and Critical Dates

PREPARED BY CFLCC C-1

Introduction

- As far as the VAO's job, the SF-186 is the last big piece of the voting puzzle.

Agenda/Topics

- Deadlines
- Filling out the SF-186
- Special Circumstances

Overview

The culmination and purpose of the Federal Voting Assistance Program is to give all eligible voter's the opportunity to vote in state and federal elections.

Ensuring the ballot arrives at the elections office in State ballot or FWAB form, is the last piece of the puzzle.

Critical Dates

- All ballots, regardless of type, should be mailed to the states by 11 Oct 04 from the CENTCOM AOR and 15 Oct 04 from other overseas areas.
- These dates are based on the expected time of delivery from overseas to the states and ensures the ballot will arrive in time.
- If a voter is not able to meet these dates, then they should still send in the ballot.
- Careful consideration must be made by VAOs in remote areas, especially the FOBs, that do not receive mail at normal intervals.
- VAOs in remote areas must ensure that they have the requisite number of SF-186,(FWABs) prior to that deadline.

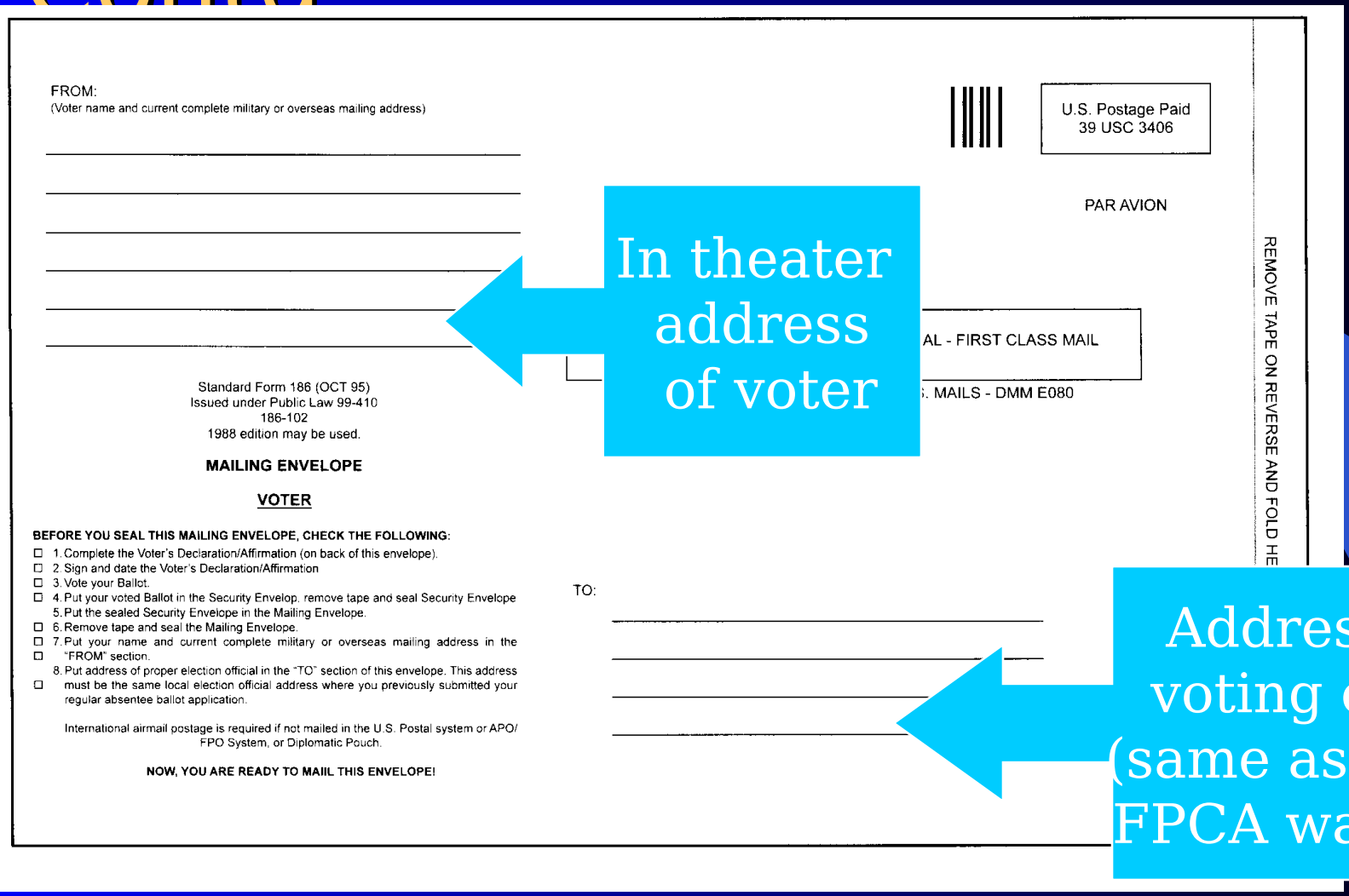
Two Ballots?!?!?!?!?!?!?!

- If the service member does not receive their ballot from their election official in time, they should mail in the SF-186.
- What happens if the member sends in the SF-186, then receives the regular ballot?
  - Mail in the regular ballot as well.
  - Election officials have been trained to throw out the write-in ballot if both are received

How to fill out the SF-186

- Details in Voters Assistance Guide (pp 23-26)
- Remember to consult the state's section for directions on how to fill out the SF-186. DO NOT rely on memory!
- Ensure that all personnel understand that there are intricacies within each state, to ensure that they will approach you for help.

How to fill out the SF-186 Contd



FROM:
(Voter name and current complete military or overseas mailing address)

U.S. Postage Paid
39 USC 3406

PAR AVION

AL - FIRST CLASS MAIL

. MAILS - DMM E080

REMOVE TAPE ON REVERSE AND FOLD HE

Standard Form 186 (OCT 95)
Issued under Public Law 99-410
186-102
1988 edition may be used.

MAILING ENVELOPE

VOTER

BEFORE YOU SEAL THIS MAILING ENVELOPE, CHECK THE FOLLOWING:

- ☐ 1. Complete the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation (on back of this envelope).
- ☐ 2. Sign and date the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation
- ☐ 3. Vote your Ballot.
- ☐ 4. Put your voted Ballot in the Security Envelop, remove tape and seal Security Envelope
- 5. Put the sealed Security Envelope in the Mailing Envelope.
- ☐ 6. Remove tape and seal the Mailing Envelope.
- ☐ 7. Put your name and current complete military or overseas mailing address in the
- ☐ "FROM" section.
- 8. Put address of proper election official in the "TO" section of this envelope. This address
- ☐ must be the same local election official address where you previously submitted your regular absentee ballot application.

International airmail postage is required if not mailed in the U.S. Postal system or APO/FPO System, or Diplomatic Pouch.

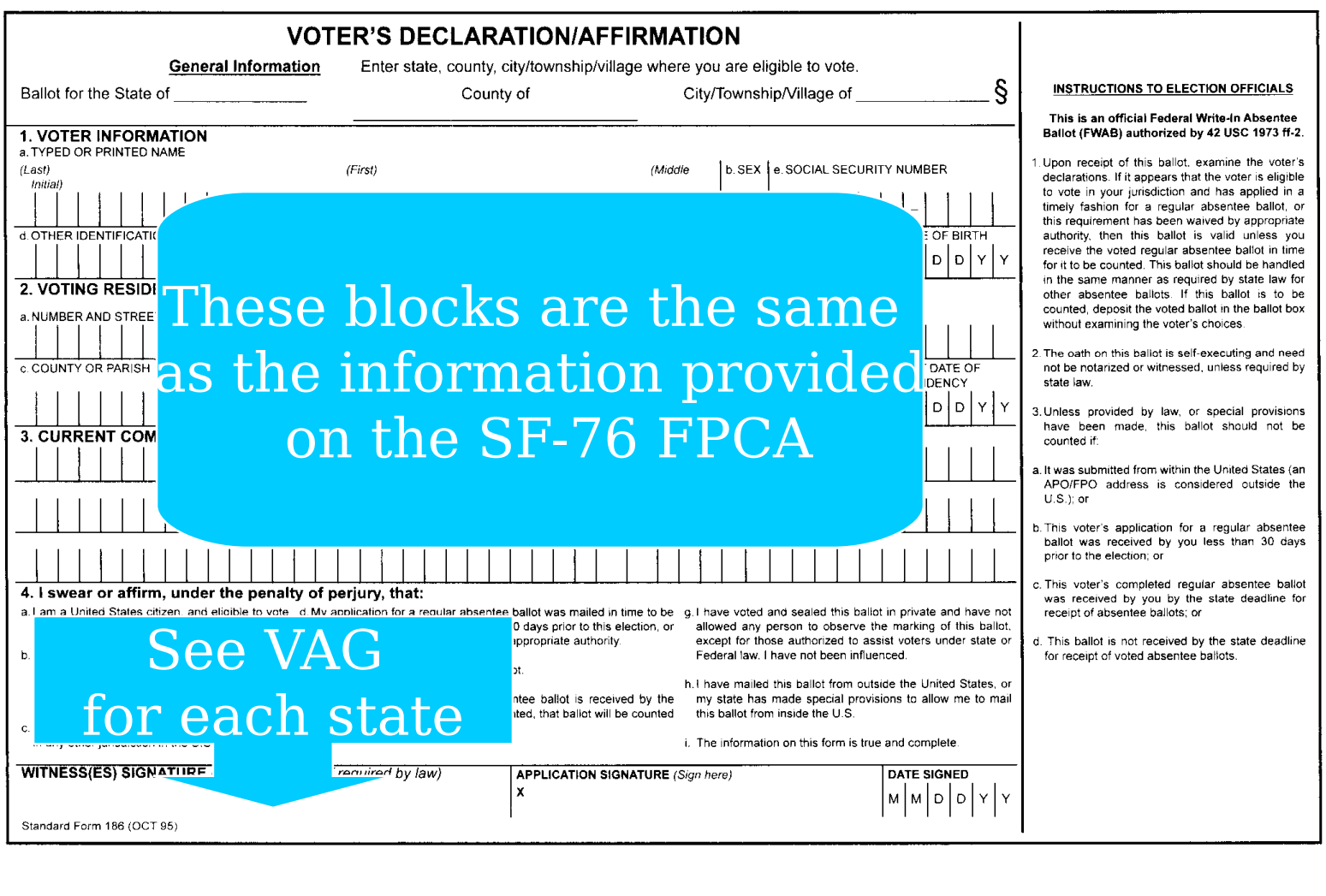
NOW, YOU ARE READY TO MAIIL THIS ENVELOPE!

TO:

In theater address of voter

Address of voting official (same as where FPCA was sent)

How to fill out the SF-186 Contd…



VOTER'S DECLARATION/AFFIRMATION

General Information Enter state, county, city/township/village where you are eligible to vote.

Ballot for the State of _____ County of _____ City/Township/Village of _____ §

1. VOTER INFORMATION

a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME

(Last) (First) (Middle Initial) b. SEX e. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

d. OTHER IDENTIFICATI… …E OF BIRTH D D Y Y

2. VOTING RESIDI…

a. NUMBER AND STREE…

c. COUNTY OR PARISH …DATE OF …DENCY D D Y Y

3. CURRENT COM…

These blocks are the same as the information provided on the SF-76 FPCA

4. I swear or affirm, under the penalty of perjury, that:

a. I am a United States citizen, and eligible to vote. d. My application for a regular absentee ballot was mailed in time to be …0 days prior to this election, or …ppropriate authority.

b. …ot.

c. …ntee ballot is received by the …ited, that ballot will be counted

See VAG for each state

g. I have voted and sealed this ballot in private and have not allowed any person to observe the marking of this ballot, except for those authorized to assist voters under state or Federal law. I have not been influenced.

h. I have mailed this ballot from outside the United States, or my state has made special provisions to allow me to mail this ballot from inside the U.S.

i. The information on this form is true and complete.

WITNESS(ES) SIGNATURE …required by law) APPLICATION SIGNATURE (Sign here) X DATE SIGNED M M D D Y Y

Standard Form 186 (OCT 95)

INSTRUCTIONS TO ELECTION OFFICIALS

This is an official Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) authorized by 42 USC 1973 ff-2.

1. Upon receipt of this ballot, examine the voter's declarations. If it appears that the voter is eligible to vote in your jurisdiction and has applied in a timely fashion for a regular absentee ballot, or this requirement has been waived by appropriate authority, then this ballot is valid unless you receive the voted regular absentee ballot in time for it to be counted. This ballot should be handled in the same manner as required by state law for other absentee ballots. If this ballot is to be counted, deposit the voted ballot in the ballot box without examining the voter's choices.

2. The oath on this ballot is self-executing and need not be notarized or witnessed, unless required by state law.

3. Unless provided by law, or special provisions have been made, this ballot should not be counted if:

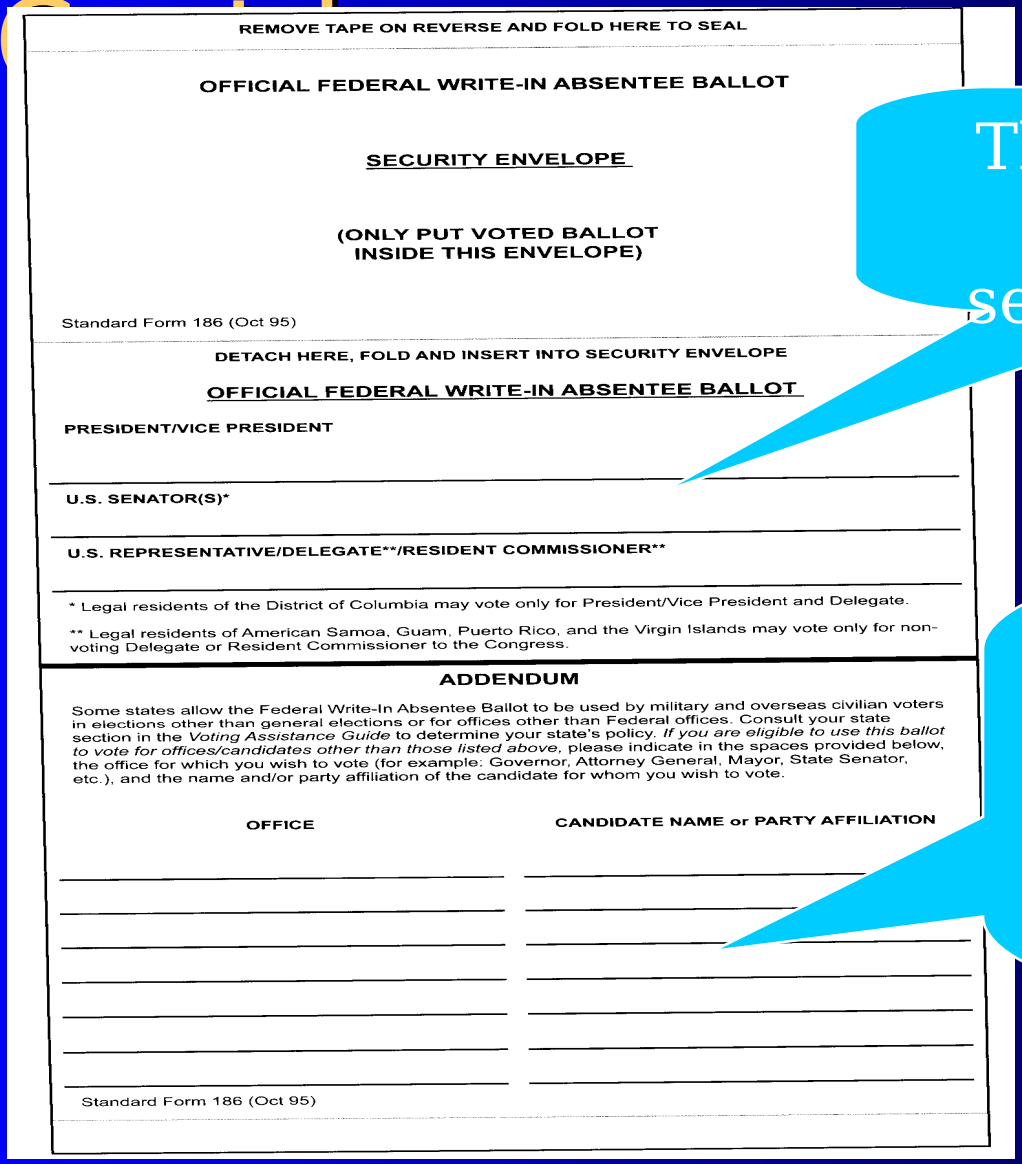
a. It was submitted from within the United States (an APO/FPO address is considered outside the U.S.); or

b. This voter's application for a regular absentee ballot was received by you less than 30 days prior to the election; or

c. This voter's completed regular absentee ballot was received by you by the state deadline for receipt of absentee ballots; or

d. This ballot is not received by the state deadline for receipt of voted absentee ballots.

How to fill out the SF-186



REMOVE TAPE ON REVERSE AND FOLD HERE TO SEAL

OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT

SECURITY ENVELOPE

(ONLY PUT VOTED BALLOT INSIDE THIS ENVELOPE)

Standard Form 186 (Oct 95)

DETACH HERE, FOLD AND INSERT INTO SECURITY ENVELOPE

OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT

PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

U.S. SENATOR(S)*

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE/DELEGATE**/RESIDENT COMMISSIONER**

* Legal residents of the District of Columbia may vote only for President/Vice President and Delegate.

** Legal residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands may vote only for non-voting Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

ADDENDUM

Some states allow the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas civilian voters in elections other than general elections or for offices other than Federal offices. Consult your state section in the *Voting Assistance Guide* to determine your state's policy. *If you are eligible to use this ballot to vote for offices/candidates other than those listed above*, please indicate in the spaces provided below, the office for which you wish to vote (for example: Governor, Attorney General, Mayor, State Senator, etc.), and the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for whom you wish to vote.

OFFICE | CANDIDATE NAME or PARTY AFFILIATION

Standard Form 186 (Oct 95)

This is where the voter selects the federal officers

Consult the individual state section in the VAG to check if the state allows voting for state and local offices

Finally,

- There are plenty of SF-186s in the Army's publication system.
- If you do not have them, consult your higher HQs VAO.
- If you still need further assistance, call the

  SVAO for your MSC or MACOM.
- If you have any other questions, do not hesitate to call for help.

Summary

- The critical dates for the mailing of ballots is 11 Oct 04 from the CENTCOM AOR and 15 Oct 04 from other overseas areas.
- If a voter is not able to meet these dates, then they should still send in the ballot
- The specific instructions of each state, contained in the VAG, must be adhered to.
- DO NOT attempt to complete by memory. Always consult the book.